



GRADE

Provided by:

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service Poultry Programs, Grading Branch P.O. Box 96456, STOP 0258 Washington, D.C. 20090-6456

www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/

For More Information Call (202) 720-4411

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice or TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 325-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

AMS-PY-001 03/99 The USDA Grade A Shield on Poultry:

Your Ultimate Assurance of Quality



What Does the USDA Grade Shield Mean to You and Your Family?

The USDA Grade Shield
is an added assurance of
quality based on standards
developed by the U.S.
Department of Agriculture.
Not all poultry products sold to
customers meet these high standards.

The USDA Grade Shield Means:

 An independent, third-party USDA grader examined and certified that the poultry meets strict U.S. quality standards.

 A USDA grader continuously monitored the poultry throughout processing and packaging to assure quality.

 The poultry passed a comprehensive and strict examination process.



The USDA Grade Shield Assures:

- The poultry is plump and meaty and does not have disjointed or broken bones.
- The poultry skin does not have feathers, cuts, tears or bruises.
- Boneless poultry products are free of bone, cartilage, tendons and bruises.
- The package contents are properly labeled, and the net weight is accurate.
- Frozen poultry is not dehydrated and does not have excess moisture in the package.

USDA does the checking so you don't have to. Look for the USDA Grade Shield.

What Should You Look for When Buying Poultry?

The USDA
Shield

